

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LASZLO OCSKAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously Captain Laszlo Ocskay, a courageous and righteous individual whose actions saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Nazi occupation of Budapest, Hungary in 1944–1945. I am not the first to recognize Captain Ocskay's outstanding humanitarian service on this floor, and I proudly add my voice to those who have paid tribute to this remarkable man's life. Much of the recognition of Captain's Ocskay's historic contributions has fortunately come to light in recent years thanks to the research and writings of Dan Danieli of Riverdale, New York.

Captain Laszlo Ocskay served in the Austro-Hungarian army as an officer during World War I, during which he suffered wounds to his leg that left him ineligible for active service in the post-war Hungarian army. Captain Ocskay remained on inactive reserve until 1944 when he requested to be reactivated to the 101/359 Labor Service Battalion. Despite his injuries, Captain Ocskay was appointed to the post of Commanding Officer of Labor Service Battalion, assigned the task of collecting and warehousing clothes.

At great risk to his personal safety, Captain Ocskay sought and then used this position to protect and sustain more than two thousand men, women and children who were threatened by the Hungarian Arrow-Cross's increasing violence against Jews in Budapest. Against official policy, Captain Ocskay allowed many escapees from other forced labor units, survivors of anti-Jewish campaigns, family members of the men in his labor service, and others facing persecution to join the ranks of the 101/359 Battalion.

Through his connections with sympathetic German military officials and his partnership with Section-T of the International Red Cross, Captain Ocskay was able to successfully shield these individuals from the increasing persecution of Jewish residents as well as provide them with food, medicine and other necessities. The Section-T was in fact quite dependent on Captain Ocskay, who opened his private home to be used as their headquarters, as well as a sanctuary for a small number of Jews in hiding. Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Jews during this same period, is also known to have operated from Captain Ocskay's home and was hidden at his house shortly before being captured by the Soviet troops. Captain Ocskay persevered in his extraordinary efforts to protect the lives and safety of those in his labor camp until the Soviet liberation of the Labor Camps.

Following the end of World War II, Captain Ocskay was arrested numerous times by the communists who alleged that he was an

American spy. Captain Ocskay's position in an American oil company's Budapest office and his ties with Wallenberg and others who the Soviets had disappeared may have made him suspect. After repeated arrests and releases, he escaped to Austria and then later moved to the United States to live with his son. Captain Ocskay died in 1966 in Kingston, New York, where he is buried. He is survived by his son, George Ocskay, his daughter-in-law, Helen Ocskay, and his granddaughter, Elisabeth.

Captain Ocskay's outstanding humanitarian contributions were largely unrecognized during his lifetime. He was however posthumously awarded a gold medal by the President of Hungary, and the city of Budapest has honored him with a permanent public memorial. Certainly, Captain Ocskay's bravery and resolve in the face of the inhuman and brutal Holocaust perpetuated against European Jews stands as an important reminder of the difference that principled and moral individuals can make against even the most egregious manifestations of human hatred and bigotry.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the Jewish Federation of Ulster County this April 27, 2003 in honoring the distinguished legacy of Captain Ocskay and in paying tribute to his surviving family members.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Solomon Schechter Day School in Worcester, Massachusetts and to congratulate the teachers, students, and parents of the school on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Solomon Schechter Day School was founded in 1977 when a group of local parents explored the idea of establishing a Jewish day school for the Worcester community. They shared a common vision: educate their students intellectually and spiritually and, in doing so, inspire them to assume leadership roles within secular and Jewish worlds.

Under the leadership of Principal Malka Levine, the school opened its doors on September 6, 1978 with 21 students in kindergarten through Grade 3. By 1990 the school enrolled students through Grade 8, completing their original goal to serve students from K to 8. Today enrollment has grown to 116 students who come from a wide variety of families in Worcester County representing diverse religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Graduates have gone on to further their education at some of our finest institutions and serve their community as educators, teachers, physicians, scientists, and many other fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Solomon Schechter Day School on 25 years of providing an exceptional education for

Worcester County's children and for instilling in them the importance of serving their community. I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in my admiration for the school and its accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on April 7, 2003, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1055, the "Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building" Designation Act (rollcall vote 109), H. Res. 127, Expressing the sense of the House that a month should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month" (rollcall 110), and H.R. 1368, "Norman Shumway Post Office Building" Designation Act (rollcall vote 111). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

THE PENSION BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today my good friend from Vermont, the Honorable BERNIE SANDERS, in cosponsoring his bi-partisan legislation to protect the pension benefits of older employees. Over 100 members of the House are original co-sponsors of this important bill.

I am also very pleased that this bill enjoys the support of the AFL-CIO, the AARP, the Communication Workers of America, the Pension Rights Center, and other organizations as well as individual employees throughout the country impacted by what are known in the pension world as "cash balance plan conversions." These groups and individuals have been important leaders in this very difficult but important fight.

Millions of white-collar employees and other workers in America will benefit from our bill. Our bill is about fairness. Our bill says that if a company with a traditional defined benefit plan switches—in mid-stream—to a cash balance plan that costs that company less, an older employee has the right to choose to be in whichever of the two plans is better for him or her. We say, let the employee choose.

As you know, the reason that employers can save hundreds of millions of dollars by switching to the increasingly popular cash balance plans is because they will pay their employees less in benefits.

We are not proposing that all employers must have a traditional defined benefit plan for all employees. We are not saying that, nor

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

could we. We are saying very clearly, however, that if you promised an employee a certain pension, pay that employee the pension you promised.

Our bill would guarantee the right of employees who are 40 years old or older, or who have worked for ten or more years for the same company, to choose to stay in the traditional defined benefit pension plan even if the company decides to convert that plan to a cash balance plan.

When Treasury Secretary Snow visited with Senators DURBIN and HARKIN this past January prior to his confirmation, he told them that he believed in choice. He told them that his railroad company, CSX, offered choice. He said a board he sat on, Verizon, offered choice.

But now he is overseeing a pending change to pension regulations at the Department of Treasury that would not require companies to offer choice. Under the pending rules, a well-meaning company would be allowed to offer choice or otherwise treat their employees fairly.

The problem is that the rules do not require that they be treated fairly. That is wrong. And that is why we are sponsoring this legislation.

As BERNIE pointed out a few weeks ago, no member of Congress would want to see the pension system here changed in mid-stream if it meant that after working for 25 years you would find your expected pension cut in half.

Millions of employees across the country don't want to see their hard-earned benefits cut either. But they are afraid. They are looking at their retirement years, after a lifetime of work, and they are afraid that after a cash balance conversion they will lose half of the benefits they expected and worked so hard to achieve. The General Accounting Office has documented that conversions especially hurt older employees and can cost them as much as half of their pension benefits.

These employees are looking at the cost of health insurance, the cost of college for their children, and the cost of retirement. They have counted on their pension to help them through some of those costs. But under a conversion, they risk seeing those benefits and those dreams, cut.

Mr. Speaker, I have been contacted by employees in every industry from across the country, from the airline industry, the finance industry, and industrial companies. They are wondering why in the world would President Bush promote new rules that deliberately give employers the legal protection to slash pension benefits.

The President's proposal raises serious questions about the direction in which he is taking the nation and the people who work so hard every day to make ends meet.

The President does not have a policy to create jobs.

The President does not have a policy to eliminate the budget deficit.

The President does not have a policy to provide health insurance to the uninsured.

But President Bush does have a plan to help companies slash employees' pension benefits.

The business press is full of stories about this problem—retirement security. This isn't something BERNIE SANDERS and RAHM EMANUEL and I have made up. The economic future of Americans is in serious jeopardy and these pension rules are one important part of that problem.

Our legislation will not create jobs, or restore the budget surplus, provide health insurance, or turn around the stock market, although we have proposals to accomplish those goals. Those are not the goals of this particular bill.

But our bill will establish fairness for the treatment of older employees' hard-earned pension benefits. That is what they deserve, what they expect, and what they need.

REGARDING THE UNTIMELY
DEATH OF SERGEANT ORLANDO
MORALES IN AFGHANISTAN ON
MARCH 29, 2003

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with a saddened heart for the untimely death of a resident in South Florida who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. On Saturday, March 29, 2003, gunmen on motorcycles ambushed a U.S. military reconnaissance patrol in Southern Afghanistan and killed Sergeant Orlando Morales. I wish to express my deepest condolences to Ms. Maria Roxana Morales and the entire Morales family, and at the same time offer all my support and prayers.

I believe a person's life is not measured by the time spent on this earth, but by what is accomplished while here. With this in mind, Sergeant Morales will always be considered a hero. The ultimate passing of any true hero is a tragedy.

This tragedy only crystallizes the great risk and danger these brave men experience in the name of the people of the United States. All of America mourns the loss of our military men and women, though we cannot feel the depth of the families' pain. We never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history. They have earned our gratitude and respect.

Because of the very high regard in which I hold all members of the armed services, it is especially disturbing to me when one of these fine young men or women is killed. By any measure, their contributions, in terms of human sacrifice, are immense. As a nation we share the sense of loss that the Morales family is experiencing. Though sorrow runs deep, our pride for Orlando Morales shines brightly.

HONORING JIM AND KATHLEEN
HURCKES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim and Kathleen, "Bonnie", Hurckes, outstanding former residents of the City of Chicago and the greater Southwest side. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Good Friday, April 18, 2003. Their celebration is scheduled for April 13, 2003 at St. Andrew the Apostle in Romeoville, Illinois.

Jim and Bonnie have spent five decades of married life together and have produced a loving and nurturing family consisting of eight children: James (Carol), John, Jeff, Judith (Ron), Joyce, Jerry (Mary Ann), Joseph, and June (Dominic). They are also proud grandparents of their 17 grandchildren: Jay, Jackie, Christine, Rick, Joe, Peggy, Mike, Robert, John, Jeff, Stephanie, Kathleen, Dominic, Nick, Jenna, Mark, and Megan, as well as their first greatgrandchild, Jayton.

Jim and Bonnie have passed fifty years of marriage in loving and consistent devotion to one another, truly exemplifying the spirit of the sacrament of holy matrimony and serving as a model and inspiration to their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as Jim and Bonnie continue their wedded journey, I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable couple.

HONORING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM
AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2003
COUNTIES CARE FOR KIDS
AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fairfax County's Healthy Families program on their recognition by the National Association of Counties as a 2003 Counties Care for Kids Award recipient.

Healthy Families Fairfax was launched in 1992 under the parent organization Healthy Families America, and has now been working to improve childcare in Fairfax for over a decade. This Counties Care for Kids Award recognizes the program as an innovative and model county government effort that has demonstrated measurable outcomes for children and their families. Healthy Families Fairfax works directly with first-time parents to promote child health. A public-health nurse and family support worker provide educational and therapeutic support to the family at home, from prenatal through age four of the child.

Studies have shown the immense impact of early childhood care on child development, but unfortunately many children are neglected and even abused during their pivotal formative years. By assisting parents with parenting, health, nutrition, problem-solving, and stress management, Healthy Families Fairfax gives children and families the opportunity to grow up together in a healthy environment. While similar programs do exist, most do not approach the comprehensive approach of Healthy Families Fairfax, whose support teams not only address parenting issues, but also assist families with family problems not directly related to the new baby. This inclusive method affords homes a viable chance to succeed in raising their baby and building a life together.

This worthy project is a voluntary prevention program of the Department of Family Services, in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Health, Northern Virginia Family Service, UCM Community Solutions, and Reston Interfaith. Only eight programs nationwide have been chosen as 2003 Counties

Care for Kids Award recipients, and Healthy Families Fairfax certainly exemplifies the positive impact that county-wide programs hope to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is an honor to extend my warm congratulations to Healthy Families Fairfax for all of their achievements. The recognition by the National Association of Counties is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing the Healthy Families Fairfax future success.

HONORING OAK CLIFF LIONS CLUB

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oak Cliff Lions Club. This organization has served the Oak Cliff Community faithfully and continually now for seven decades. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate them on their 70th Anniversary. I am proud to be a member of such an organization, one that promotes education, leadership, strong values, and togetherness.

Lions commit themselves to improving the lives of everyone. They are always determined to help the less fortunate, whether they are thousands of miles away, or just down the street. Through the Lions Club, young people can earn scholarships to participate in both international exchanges and community outreach programs.

Lions Clubs not only promote service to their communities, but to the entire world, with over 1.4 million members in 190 countries. In today's global society, Lions clubs are perhaps more important than ever before. Oak Cliff Lions are looking forward to the challenges of today and tomorrow with optimism and unwavering loyalty. Our message is simple but clear. We serve.

Since Lions clubs were established, Lions have been dedicated to giving something back, and I am certain that the Oak Cliff Lions Club will continue its tradition of selfless service and pride in our great community.

A BILL TO PERMIT COOPERATIVES TO PAY DIVIDENDS ON PREFERRED STOCK WITHOUT REDUCING PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act. This legislation will help to end an unfair tax on cooperatives and their members.

As those of us from agricultural and rural areas can attest, cooperatives play a vital role in many Americans' lives. Whether it be farmers pooling their resources in order to survive in the global marketplace, consumers maximizing their buying power through volume purchasing, or healthcare facilities providing community-based services—cooperatives facilitate people working together for a common good.

One of the greatest challenges facing cooperatives today is access to capital. In order

to raise much needed capital and avoid further debt, many cooperatives are considering issuing preferred stock. However, under the current tax laws, stock dividends paid to stockholders are taxed three times: (1) When they are earned by the cooperative; (2) when received by the stockholder; and (3) at the corporate level when earnings are distributed.

Members of cooperatives are taxed on income generated by the cooperative. The cooperative itself, however, is not taxed so long as any "patronage income" is distributed to its members. Cooperatives frequently earn at least some non-member, or "nonpatronage," income. Much like a corporation, a cooperative must pay taxes on such nonpatronage income, just as the stockholder, whether a member or non-member, must also pay tax on that income when it is distributed as a dividend. Unlike a corporation, however, cooperatives must then pay what amounts to a third tax due to the operation of an obscure IRS rule.

The "dividend allocation rule" imposes a third level of taxation on the cooperative by reducing the amount of patronage dividends paid to cooperative members. Cooperatives, such as a typical farming cooperative, may deduct dividends paid to patrons from taxable income. IRS regulations, however, provide that net earnings eligible for the patronage dividend deduction are reduced by dividends paid on capital stock. This requirement has been interpreted to mean that even dividends paid out of nonpatronage earnings will be "allocated" to a cooperative's patronage and nonpatronage earnings in proportion to the relative amount of patronage/nonpatronage business done by the cooperative. This "allocation" significantly reduces the amount of net earnings from the patronage operation that may be claimed as a deduction, thus increasing the cooperative's level of taxation.

Put more simply, the "dividend allocation rule" allocates income already taxed against what would have otherwise been a deduction. As a result, cooperatives pay more taxes on income used to pay a dividend on stock than would a non-cooperative corporation.

It is time to end the triple taxation on cooperative income and give farmers, consumers, hospitals, and other coop members the flexibility they deserve in structuring their affairs. It is time to eliminate the dividend allocation rule and pass the Cooperative Dividend Equity Act of 2003.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the wartime supplemental appropriations bill. Yet, I am greatly troubled by this vote.

The President's crusade to preemptively invade Iraq without regard to peace or diplomacy was wrong. I voted against the resolution giving him the authority to do so and remain opposed to this war. I continue to question the President's judgment as commander-in-chief. Yet, when our troops are in harms way, Congress has a duty to support them and support them we must.

This bill provides our men and women in uniform with the resources that I hope will bring a swift end to the war and minimize the loss of life. That is why I am voting in favor of it today.

HONORING THE POEMS OF STUDENTS FROM THE JFK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL IN DEER PARK, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the poems of the students of the JFK Intermediate School in Deer Park, New York.

Like all of us, the war in Iraq is on the minds of America's children. Students at the JFK Intermediate School have taken time to acknowledge the troops and thank them for their dedication and service to our country.

Kyle Thorn, age 10, writes: "I just want to thank you for protecting not only your country, you are also protecting your people. I also want to thank you for risking your life for every American when you don't even know them. You are what a true American citizen is. When you are out there in Iraq you are not only saluting your country, you are saluting the people in your country."

I join with these students in their continued support and appreciation for our troops at home and abroad and pray for their safe return home.

DEAR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN: Hi my name is Kyle Thorn, I am 10 years old and I live in Derr Park, Ny. I have an older brother who is 14 and a younger sister that is 6. I dont know if you know him but I have an Uncle whose in the Air National 106th Reserve. His name is George Kalamoros.

In this letter I just want to thank-you For protecting not only your country you are also protecting your people. I also want to thank-you for risking your life for every american when you dont-even know them. You are what a true american citizen is. When you are out there in Iraq you are not only saluting your country you are saluting the people in your country.

From,

KYLE THORN.

DEAR ALEX: hI my name is George. Ylitelo. I rote this Letter To Thank you for serving this country. I hope their is no war. You are thought of every day. IF their is A war Dont worry because you are not alone you have U.S.A.

This is the real world so that means George W. Bush mite make some kind of Deal. If he does not you have the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines. I know you will make It threw the Long Days of hard work in the Desert.

You Friend,

GEORGE YLITELLO.

PLEASE SAVE THE WORLD

(By Heather Lake)

DEAR SOLDIER: Hi, my name is Heather. I am 8 years old. But I will be 9 in April 24th. I want to thank you for volenteering to save the world from losing. Please pray to all that have died in your group that have tried to save this world. I hope you do well. Be carefully with the weapons. We are sending things like: Toilet paper, newspaper, pictures, tishuses, chap stick. I hope you do really really well. I hope you get binladin Hussan.

Thank you and win the war.
P.S. Thank you for your time.

OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS

(By Mrs. Orofino's Fourth Graders)

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, Deer Park School District, Deer Park, New York
You're our Knights in Shining Armor.
The personnel carriers your steeds and body protection.
Thundering over the desert on toward Baghdad.
You left home and traveled to foreign lands in the name of Freedom.
You crossed thousands of miles,
Leaving your loved ones behind.
You crossed barren lands over hundreds of miles through the desert.
Listening to artillery fire.
Treating Iraqi citizens
With Kindness and Respect.
Thank you for being our heroes, the World's Protectors of Liberty and Justice.
"Let Freedom Ring!"

TO OUR MARINES

(By Jessica Gulotta)

When you are out there in your tanks
I am giving you a special thanks.
I truly trust you. I really do.
Leaving your homes and families too.
Keep your hopes up; it will get you through.
Heroes, Heroes, that's what you are.
You left your homes and traveled far
Off to war, hoping an end will soon come.
Just fight, fight, fight, and then you're done.

HONORING HARRY BLOWEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Harry Blowey and his contributions to this country. Harry began his service to our nation in the 1940s, serving in the Navy in the Pacific theatre during World War II, and today I would like to honor his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Harry was aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS *Bismarck Sea*, during the battle for Iwo Jima when his ship was hit by two Japanese kamikazes. The explosions broke the ship in half, and as the ship sank, Harry lowered himself down a line and jumped into the water, keeping himself afloat for five hours before he was rescued. Harry's ship was the last American aircraft carrier sunk in World War II.

Harry also served as a belly-gunner during the battles for Leyte and Luzon in the Philippine Islands, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Navy and Marine Corps medal for heroism, and three air medals for special com-

bat missions. Now Harry is continuing to serve his country by sharing his story with his neighbors and the Veterans' History Project, ensuring that his experiences will be permanently archived at the U.S. Library of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Harry Blowey for his service to this country. He served selflessly during a time when our country was in great need. His actions have brought great credit to himself and his nation, and his willingness to share his story with posterity will benefit generations to come. Thanks, Harry, for your service to this nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 109, 110, and 111, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall vote No. 109—"aye"; Rollcall vote No. 110—"aye"; Rollcall Vote No. 111—"aye."

TRIBUTE TO 2003 NCAA CHAMPIONS
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Syracuse University Orangemen. Last night, Syracuse laid claim to the school's first Division I Basketball National Championship after defeating the University of Kansas, 81-78. In addition to the players and coaching staff, many deserve recognition, including school administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, students, and one of the most loyal fan bases in all of collegiate athletics.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, Syracuse has been to the Final Four before. Last night's championship game proved for Head Coach Jim Boeheim that the third time was the right time as his Orangemen came full circle to defeat a national powerhouse in the Louisiana Superdome, avenging a heartbreaking 1987 loss to Indiana in the same facility. Preparing for a championship match up against a senior-led Kansas team is not an easy task. Jim deserves much credit for his young team's outstanding determination and accomplishment.

Knowing Coach Boeheim personally, I would like to congratulate him here on the House floor. He is Syracuse basketball. Coaching his alma mater for twenty-seven years and being part of Syracuse basketball for more than half his life, this championship is deserved not only for all of Syracuse's supporters and community but for the coach himself. Also deserving praise this afternoon is Head Assistant Coach Bernie Fine and the rest of the Syracuse coaching staff.

Syracuse's championship team was led by Final Four MOP, freshman Carmelo Anthony, with outstanding support from Gerry McNamara, Billy Edelin, Kueth Duany, Hakim Warrick, Craig Forth, Jeremy McNeil, and Josh Pace. This young team demonstrated poise, presence, and pride in their perform-

ance throughout the tournament and all season long.

The Orangemen's win last night certifies that Syracuse is a national college basketball powerhouse. Congratulations to the entire Syracuse University community. We are proud of you.

TRIBUTE TO THE FRIENDS OF
NORRIS COTTON CANCER CENTER**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions made by the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Whereas the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center began in 1982, when a group of civic-minded citizens, all friends of Senator Norris Cotton, founded an organization to support Norris Cotton Cancer Center, which was established in 1972, through the efforts of Senator Norris Cotton and Dr. Frank Lane.

Whereas the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center have lived up to their stated purpose to promote the welfare of the Cancer Center at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center during the past two decades.

Whereas the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center have adopted the Audrey Prouty Century Ride & Fitness Walk as its signature fundraiser.

Whereas the Prouty first began 22 years ago when four nurses rode 100 miles through the White Mountains of New Hampshire as a tribute to one patient's courage in her battle with ovarian cancer.

Whereas last year's proceeds from the Prouty enabled Norris Cotton Cancer Center researchers to continue their work assessing a person's genetic risk for cancer, developing new and better medications to fight the disease, and advancing basic science investigations critical to finding a cure for cancer.

Whereas the recent purchase of an Agilent Microarray System, a powerful weapon in the war against cancer, was made possible through the work of the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center has made possible the identification of previously unidentified targets within tumors and the development of novel drugs to attack and hopefully kill these tumors.

Whereas the continued fundraising efforts of the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center through the Prouty and other venues will most assuredly translate into even more discoveries in the search for a cure for cancer.

Therefore I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending heartfelt appreciation and admiration to the Friends for their contributions towards the cure for cancer in our lifetime.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY PINO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sergeant

Jerry Pino and thank him for the contributions he has made to the community police department of Pueblo, Colorado. Jerry recently retired after twenty-five years with the Pueblo police force, and today I would like to honor his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Jerry joined the department in 1978 after leaving the U.S. Marine Corps, and earned his promotion to sergeant in 1994. In the course of his career, Jerry won three commendations for his actions on the job, catching two armed robbery suspects by anticipating their escape route and almost single-handedly unraveling a theft ring. Just this past year, Jerry saved the life of an eighty-four year old woman when he found her collapsed just outside her apartment in freezing weather. As a former police officer myself, I know of the dedicated service, long hours and unrivaled commitment that our law enforcement officers give to their communities. Jerry's twenty-five years of service exemplify this dedication.

Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to honor Sergeant Jerry Pino and wish him the best as he leaves the Pueblo Police Department. He has been an effective officer and an integral part of the police force for twenty-five years. Jerry, thank you for your dedicated service.

GERRY McNAMARA MAKES NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA PROUD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the key role that Gerry McNamara of Scranton played in the outstanding season of the Syracuse University men's basketball team, culminating in their winning the NCAA championship Monday.

For example, he scored 18 of the team's 81 points in the title game. Clearly, the phrase "just a freshman" does not apply to him, and he certainly earned the honor of being named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team. He was also a unanimous selection to the Big East All-Rookie Team, which is selected by the league's head coaches.

By helping lead his collegiate team to victory, Mr. McNamara is continuing his outstanding record from Bishop Hannan High School, where he set records and led the team as it won the state Class AA championship last year. Before that, he led the Holy Rosary team to a Catholic Youth Organization title in the eighth grade.

Those who know Mr. McNamara's history from Scranton were not at all surprised by how well he has played at the national level.

Mr. Speaker, Gerry McNamara has continued to make Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania proud. I expect we will see more great things from this fine young man in years to come, and I send my congratulations to him and his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF KUP'S COLUMN ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by Steve Neal, a political editor for the Chicago Sun Times. The article, entitled Kup's column turns 60—and still going strong, is about Irv Kupcinec, the greatest and most influential columnist that Chicago has ever had, and one of the most influential columnists in the history of America.

Steve Neal wrote the following:

He is without peer.

Irv Kupcinec, who is celebrating the 60th anniversary of his column, is one of the more durable institutions in the history of American journalism. "Kup's Column," which started in January 1943, is the nation's longest running newspaper column.

"He'll delve into every phase of local enterprise and activity . . . business, politics, nightclubs, the theater, sportsband . . ." the old Chicago Times announced in a house ad. "Intimate, sprightly, his column will be brimming over with names that make news."

In his first item, Kup reported that Irving Berlin berated the cast of his musical revue, "This is The Army," after a published report that they tired of the road tour and wanted to resume their military duties.

Kup also disclosed that state Sen. Abraham Lincoln Marovitz (D-Chicago) was about to enlist in the Marines, and that comedian Joe E. Lewis, who was then performing at the Chez Paree, would soon be embarking for North Africa to entertain U.S. troops.

In looking back, Kup says that first six months of the column were the most difficult. But then he soon found a voice and went on to become one of the nation's more influential columnists.

He has appeared as a character in a Saul Bellow novel and two of Otto Preminger's classic films. Kup is the only living Chicago journalist to have a bridge named after him. The Kupcinec Bridge is on Wabash Avenue over the Chicago River.

His success is no accident. Kup is a man of incredible drive and energy. He is fair, honest, accurate, and has more contacts than anyone else in the newspaper game.

He met with future President Gerald R. Ford when they were teammates on the 1935 College All-Star football team. Kup, a quarterback who played at North Dakota and later for the Philadelphia Eagles, stood behind Ford, a center for the University of Michigan.

"I have a somewhat different view of the president of the United States," Kup later remarked.

"I've always liked Kup," Ford told me in a 1996 interview at his home in Vail, Colo. "He's a good friend and a darned good reporter. One of the best."

Kup loves Jerry Ford. But his favorite president is Harry Truman, whom he met when Truman was about to be nominated for the vice presidency at the 1944 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He gave Kup a card on which he wrote: "Kup, you're entitled to admission, the front door and the back door is always open."

Truman's portrait still hangs behind Kup's desk at the Chicago Sun-Times. Clifton Truman Daniel, the late president's grandson, said Truman felt a bond with the Chicago newsman because "they were both straight shooters and were comfortable with each other."

In the final stretch of the 1948 presidential campaign, when Truman was trailing in the polls, he told Kup: "I'm out slugging doing the best that I can. No man can do more."

Kup may have been the only columnist in America who gave Truman a chance to win. Truman later confided to Kup that the reason he fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War was that MacArthur "wanted to use the atomic bomb against the Chinese."

It was Kup who got the scoop when Truman decided not to seek re-election in 1952. Kup also accurately predicted that Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson would be drafted that year as the Democratic presidential nominee.

At the 1956 Democratic National Convention, Kup noted that the young John F. Kennedy was the "brightest young hope to emerge from the conclave."

Kup championed civil rights in his column and provided a forum for such voices of freedom as the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson.

When Bill Clinton won the presidency, Kup was among the strongest advocates for lifting the barrier against gays in the military. Kup also supported Truman when he issued his executive order to desegregate the armed services.

Kup is probably more identified with Frank Sinatra, than any other show business personality. A half a century ago, Sinatra won the Academy Award for his role in "From Heaven to Eternity." Kup persuaded Harry Cohn of Columbia Pictures to give Sinatra this part.

It should be noted that Stella Foster, Kup's associate for 34 years, is a major contributor to the success of the column. Kup's late wife, Essee, also was an integral part of the column.

On May 18, a celebration of Kup's 60th anniversary will be held at the Hilton Chicago. The proceeds will go to the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Larry King is scheduled to be the master of ceremonies.

Playboy Chief Executive Officer Christie Hefner and her husband, former state Sen. William A. Marovitz, are cochairing this special event with Kup's grandchildren, David Kupcinec and Kari Kupcinec-Kriser. For more information, call (312) 595-1400.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLIE NATHANIEL HALL, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Charlie Nathaniel Hall, Sr. Mr. Hall was born and raised in my hometown of Newark, New Jersey and has become a very active member within the community.

Attending public schools in Newark, Mr. Hall went on to earn an art degree from the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, with a concentration in Product Design. While there Mr. Hall was also a member of the Gamma Delta Phi Fraternity and worked part-time in downtown Newark, where he earned the reputation of a "laborer".

Mr. Hall's ability to grasp and handle multiple tasks sent him through the ranks and earned him the Vice-Presidency of Local 108 in 1984. He was eventually elected President of the Local Union in 1989 and served until

1998. Later in that same year he would be elected vice-president of the UFCW. Working in all aspects of these organizations, Mr. Hall is an integral component of the development and success of all organizations with which he works. He is currently President Emeritus of Local 108, RWDSU.

In addition to being an active member in the Labor movement, Mr. Hall is also very active within the community, working with the Young Businessmen's Association of Newark as well as the Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer, Inc. His contributions to the community are innumerable, and I am thankful to stand here today to recognize his work.

As Mr. Hall gathers with family and friends to celebrate his long and successful career, I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing his substantial contributions and in wishing him the very best as he pursues other endeavors.

HONORING MIKE DAVIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mike Davis of Pueblo, Colorado. As the president of Pueblo Community College, he has done much to promote the importance of higher education in my district, and today I would like to highlight his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mike worked as a clinical social worker before entering academia as an instructor at Vincennes University in Indiana, the community college where he earned an associate's degree in psychology in 1972. Taking on increasing leadership roles at Vincennes, Mike eventually earned a doctorate in higher education administration. He came to Pueblo from Indiana to serve as PCC's executive vice president in 2000, assuming the job of president in 2001.

As a community college graduate himself, Mike understands the pivotal role these institutions play in the intellectual development of his students. As president of PCC, Mike has been an exceptional supporter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society that promotes scholarship and a lively intellectual climate among students at two-year colleges. Mike will receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa for his support of the society and its PCC chapter.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's community colleges are learning centers for a wide variety of students, helping them to achieve their goals. Mike Davis encourages high standards for intellectual achievement in the academic community he heads, and his support for Phi Theta Kappa is only one measure of that support. It is a great privilege to salute Mike before this body of Congress and this nation for his achievements as both a teacher and a community leader.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND
WILDLIFE—PERSPECTIVE FROM
WYOMING

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will be debating major legislation to revise our national policies regarding energy.

There are many aspects to that debate. One that must not be overlooked is the need to balance energy development on Federal lands with the other resources, values, and uses of those lands. Colorado and the other Rocky Mountain states have a great stake in that part of the debate—something that was well illustrated by a recent article by one of our neighbors, Ted Kerasote, entitled "Wyoming Lives Uneasily with Big Game and Big Equipment."

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching that article:

[From the Writers on the Range]

WYOMING LIVES UNEASILY WITH BIG GAME
AND BIG EQUIPMENT

(By Ted Kerasote)

As meat lockers go, this corner of northwestern Wyoming is one of the prettiest on earth. Behind me, as I sit on this sage-covered bluff, is a great horseshoe of snow-dusted peaks: the Wind Rivers, the Gros Ventres, the Wyoming Range. Ahead lies the Upper Green River Valley: empty, vast and skeined with moving lines of pronghorn antelope.

Twice each year, these herds move south to their winter range and return north to summer forage. Some of these antelope routinely trek 200 miles to Grand Teton National Park, making their particular migration the longest undertaken by any mammal in the Lower 48.

In addition to the 32,000 pronghorn out here, there's also 48,000 mule deer, some of them moving upwards of a hundred miles to reach the surrounding national forests and their summer haunts. Now and then I see some of the 8,000 elk that seep down from the high country, and there's rarely a morning when, walking across these hills and draws, I don't flush a covey of sage grouse.

The size of small turkeys, the birds stop my heart when they burst directly from beneath my feet.

With the quarters of one antelope already on ice, I'm sitting up here and looking for another; in fact, two. Like many people in Wyoming, I haven't eaten farm-raised meat in decades. Three antelope, one elk and a variety of grouse, ducks, and geese feed my family and me, and the friends who help with the packing, from fall to fall. It's one of the blessings of living amid lots of publicly owned land: Food is inexpensive, healthy and fills the soul while it's gathered.

Or so it's been until recently.

Today, when I look south, I can see several pickup trucks leaving dust plumes, here and there an ATV skittering through the sage, men erecting airdials on hilltops, and a line of enormous "thumper trucks," big as tanks, rumbling their slow way across the landscape. Overhead, helicopters flash as they tend seismic equipment that read what lies below. The antelope, trying to negotiate this gantlet, rush helter-skelter from thumper truck to hovering helicopter and back.

Natural gas happens to be one of the other blessings of these public lands. The Bureau of Land Management has already permitted

3,090 wells in what's called the Pinedale Resource Area, with many more on the way. In fact, with the Bush administration's push to fast-track the production of domestic energy resources, the BLM has exceeded the number of wells permitted by its 1988 Resource Management Plan. It's now in the midst of writing a new one, which will decide the fate of the Upper Green's wildlife for next 15 to 20 years.

I suspect that many hunters in the basin (2,600 go after antelope, 7,300 after mule deer, and 7,600 after elk) feel about the way I do: We all use natural gas, but we're not willing to extract it at the expense of the region's wildlife. So what I've been saying to the BLM is this: Protect the land critical to these animals in winter; make it off-limits to anything that might disturb it.

The animals' transitional habitat needs to be protected as well. That's all the country antelope and deer use for food and rest while on their migrations to and from their summer and winter ranges. Anyone who has spent some time in this basin has probably noticed the passages through which deer and antelope have migrated for millennia, some of them only a half-mile wide. These bottlenecks need to be safeguarded.

The Bureau of Land Management also needs to recognize that more than energy development is taking place out here. Private lands are being subdivided even as some livestock grazing continues, and an ever-increasing number of recreationists—from hunters and anglers to snowmobilers and ATVers—use roads and trails and everything in between.

What I'm describing, of course, are cumulative impacts—something the federal agency has done a poor job of adding up. The current resource plan, in fact, lacks such an analysis. Most of all, what I keep asking of our federal land managers is caution: Let's find out what's happening to wildlife before we permit more gas well development.

Today, though, I have nothing left to say. Thumper trucks shaking the ground approach my bluff, and I head back to the car, looking for some undisturbed bit of country. These days in the Upper Green, it is getting harder and harder to find.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes. Had I been present for rollcall votes 105, 109, 110, and 111, I would have voted the following way: rollcall Vote No. 105: "nay;" rollcall Vote No. 109: "yea;" rollcall Vote No. 110: "yea;" rollcall Vote No. 111: "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Votes Nos. 109, 110, and 111, I was unavoidably detained with important matters in my district.

As a result, I was unable to cast a vote on the measure to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1901 West Evans Street in Florence, South Carolina, as the "Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office

Building," the measure expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the month of April should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month" and the measure to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7554 Pacific Avenue in Stockton, California, as the "Norman D. Shumway Post Office Building."

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 109, "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 110 and "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 111.

HONORING THE MONTROSE SENIOR CENTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Senior Center of Montrose, Colorado on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary. Since 1973, the Senior Center has provided a place for seniors to gather, share a hot meal, and participate in a variety of group activities. The center plays a pivotal role in the Montrose community, and today I would like to celebrate its anniversary before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Senior Center has grown and changed over the thirty years since it first offered a Valentine's Day bingo game, finally establishing a permanent meeting place in 1990 with the opening of the Montrose Pavilion. The center's meal program has steadily grown, now serving an average of 139 meals at the center and delivering seventy-two more to homebound seniors every day. The senior recreation department offers about twenty-five classes a week, introducing seniors to computers, yoga, and oil painting and offering events such as lectures and sporting tournaments for over 1,500 participants a month. In a rural community like Montrose, the senior center provides an important focal point for enhancing the lives of senior citizens, both physically and mentally.

Mr. Speaker, the Montrose Senior Center has been providing many services crucial to the local senior community for thirty years and it shows no signs of slowing down. Its longevity is admirable—a credit to its members and the surrounding community. Today I would like to congratulate the Senior Center of Montrose for its outreach to the senior citizen community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was absent for votes on Monday, April 7, 2003, as a result of a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall vote No. 111: "aye"; rollcall vote No. 110: "aye"; and rollcall vote No. 109: "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7th, I missed rollcall votes 109, 110 and 111, due to a flight delay. If I had been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 109, "yea" on rollcall No. 110 and "yea" on rollcall No. 111.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 7, 2003, I was unavoidably detained at a leadership meeting and missed the vote on rollcall No. 109 on H.R. 1055, the Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building Designation Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Lucas County, Ohio will celebrate Public Health Week April 7–13, 2003. I am pleased to recognize the efforts of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and its Public Health Planning Committee in its efforts to promote health education for the citizenry of our region.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department provides a wide array of services, including immunizations, AIDS/HIV counseling and testing, specialty health clinics, wellness programs, outreach, and advocacy. It is the local agency responsible for ensuring safe water and air, environmental services, food protection, animal control, and health assessments of the people in Lucas County. Its staff, administration, and volunteers are committed to public service, and deeply dedicated to the promotion of public health and wellness.

Celebrated in 46 states, Public Health Week is a coordinated effort to utilize the resources of the systems of public health to educate people about a wide array of issues. This year's effort focuses on weight and obesity. With two-thirds of adults overweight, and the number of overweight children tripling in twenty years, Public Health Week 2003 urges Americans to "shape up their future."

HONORING DEE CRANE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dee Crane

for her exemplary service to the Mesa County Valley School District in Colorado. Dee has been an educator for forty-two years and today I would like to honor her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Dee began teaching at Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary School before serving as Assistant Principal at Appleton, Pomona, and Lincoln Park Elementary Schools. She became principal at Taylor Elementary School in 1971 after two years as the district's Administrative Supervisor of Elementary Education. Since then, Dee has earned a reputation as an innovative and effective educator, consistently implementing new teaching methods and helping her students to achieve high scores on assessment tests.

Dee also recognizes the critical role of parental and community involvement in a child's education, and works with the local PTA to organize volunteer programs at Taylor. As principal, Dee plays a very active role in the lives of her students and faculty, spending her days in classrooms and on the playground rather than in the principal's office. For her efforts, Dee has earned numerous community honors, most recently named a Woman of Distinction by the Grand Junction American Business Women's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Dee Crane for her service to Mesa County Valley School District and to elementary education in Western Colorado. Dee is a guiding force in the lives of her young students and a dedicated leader of Taylor Elementary School. It is my great privilege to honor her today, and I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC SCOTT RUSSELL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great American youth, Eric Scott Russell. Eric Scott Russell was born on May 1, 1985 to Julie and Darryl Russell.

The family is a member of St. Dominic parish where Eric attended elementary school. His academic learning was broadened with his attendance at University School, St. Ignatius High School and Charles Rush, where he was to graduate June 2003. In addition to his schooling, Eric was an exceptional athlete in cross country track and field and football.

Eric had a desire to have a career in journalism. As a result of his diligence and hard work, the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland National Association of Black Journalists selected Eric to participate in a seven-week internship and seminar, where he was honored as "the most knowledgeable on current events".

At his home going services, I read Eric Scott Russell's college entrance essay entitled, "Overcoming Adversity". It read:

Many people say that the adversity we face in life can either make us or break us. Well, it all depends on the way that you look at obstacles, placed in your path, and what you learn as a result of going through them. I have learned the true relevance of this for myself because of recent adversity that I have faced. This adversity has taught me

that you have to always work for your best and never settle for anything less because, even if you don't deserve it, people will try to put you down and slight your name and your character. If you haven't made sure that you are at the top of your game, these attacks can break you.

The obstacle that I was forced to face was racism. Racism is, unfortunately, a common obstacle for African-American people, but my situation was unique in that it allowed a great number of people to learn of it. At the end of my junior year, a student who worked as the sports editor of the school yearbook decided, for reasons I still do not know, to deliberately and maliciously misrepresent me in print. Instead of putting my name under the Cross-Country Team picture, this student editor put the slur "Blacky". The yearbook staff and faculty advisor submitted then published the yearbook and it was distributed to the entire school.

When I was confronted with what this boy did it blew me away. I couldn't understand why this had happened to me and it sent me through a myriad of emotions. At first I was confused, then anger set in to cloud my thinking even more. I was filled with self-pity and fear of what people might say or do. I worried what this boy's hateful actions would do to my future and there wasn't much anyone could say to make me feel any better. I had to sort it out on my own and come up with my own answers.

Over time, and after much thought, I was left with two realizations. The first did not take me too long to reach. I decided that I should not feel any self-pity because the slur did not reflect on my character, but rather on the character of the boy who did this to me. The second realization took much more time because of its importance and its impact on my life. I realized that up to that point, I had not accomplished much in my high school career, and had not made a lasting mark to show that the slur was not a reflection of who I am. I decided to remain at my high school and complete my senior year, rather than allow the pain of racism to drive me away. I would face the racism and work to correct it. I joined the "Project LOVE" student group to begin this task.

Although the long-term ramifications of this one horrific event can never be speculated upon with accuracy or fully understood there are few things that I know for sure. I know that our society often projects the guilty behind a veil of obscurity while the victim is hung out to dry. I know that there are poor people who will rush to defend, or even worse, condone racism in our society. But, I also know that I must show, by my deeds, that character and integrity mean something in this world, because I believe as professed by Mahatma Gandhi, that education without character is one of the seven deadly social sins in our society. I know that my actions must reflect my beliefs and that my life must be a testimony to this fact.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I extend my sincere condolences.

GUATEMALA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in the past year, Guatemala has relapsed into some of the same anarchic behavior it demonstrated

during its brutal civil war from 1960 to 1996, which pitted leftist guerrillas against the military and associated right-wing death squads. An alarming escalation is now taking place not only in the country's general level of violence, but also in the activity of death squads linked to the military. There has been an ominous increase in human rights violations. HIJOS, a humanitarian organization based in Guatemala, released a study on January 29 which reported that 61 young people have been murdered in Guatemala City during just the first 3 weeks of the new year.

These covert paramilitary groups, which are remnants of the anti-Communist military and civil institutions that existed during the country's bitter civil strife, have reemerged to protect a burgeoning drug trade.

Guatemala's government, led by President Alfonso Portillo, is hopelessly mired in corruption, intertwined with illicit activity on the part of the military, and is complicit with the expansion of the drug trade. Since Portillo took office, drug seizures have decreased dramatically. According to a 2001 United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) study, Guatemala's reported seizure of cocaine steadily increased from 956 kg in 1995 to 9,959 kg in 1999. In 2000, however, the year after Portillo took office, this trend reversed and the number plunged to 1,517 kg of cocaine.

The country's difficulties with drugs, corruption, and human rights abuses are germane because they jeopardize the White House's plans for the development of a U.S.-sponsored free-trade agreement with Central America. The Bush administration, by decertifying Guatemala but not suspending its \$53 million in aid, is purposefully misusing the decertification process by sacrificing its war on drugs for a potential trade accord, continuing aid to the corrupt Portillo regime in order to maintain relations with Guatemala at all costs.

The following research memorandum was authored by Jason Ballet, a research associate with the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that has been long committed to addressing issues associated with democracy and human rights throughout the hemisphere.

GUATEMALA'S DRUG WOES AND THE MISUSE OF THE DRUG CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

(By Jason Ballet, Research Associate, Council on Hemispheric Affairs)

In the past year, Guatemala has relapsed into some of the same anarchic behavior it demonstrated during its brutal civil war from 1960 to 1996, which pitted leftist guerrillas against the military and associated right-wing death squads. The latter groups were responsible for most of the 200,000 deaths that occurred during the conflict. An alarming escalation is now taking place not only in the country's general level of violence, but also in the activity of death squads linked to the military. These groups have reemerged with a new motivation—to protect a burgeoning drug trade. By deferring to the military, a weak government led by Alfonso Portillo is either unwilling or unable to halt rights violations and impede the now booming narcotics trade. The Bush administration, by maintaining normal relations with Guatemala through decertifying it but not suspending its \$53 million in aid, is sacrificing the drug war in favor of cultivating a free trade agreement with Central America. Today, Portillo's government more closely resembles a "drugocracy" than a democracy; it is corrupt, an utter captive of

the drug trade, and linked to growing rights violations.

THE RETURN OF DEATH SQUADS

Rightist death squads have resurfaced, relying on an arsenal of tactics ranging from death threats, to the intimidation of prominent political figures, judges, and human rights activists, and political assassinations. These groups have committed numerous rights violations just within the past month. On January 9, 2003, unidentified gunmen assassinated the former congressional leader and head of the Christian Democrats, Jose Lubon Dubon. A few weeks later, on January 27, assailants attacked the opposition leaders of the National Unity for Hope (UNE) party, resulting in 5 injuries. Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Guatemala recently revealed that more than 130 judges received death threats since 2001. The majority of international and local observers attribute such activities to illegal arms groups.

High profile assassinations are not a new phenomena in Guatemala, occurring in the thousands during the 1980s. Former foreign Minister Alberto Fuentes Mohr, Myrna Mack, an anthropologist who investigated displaced indigenous populations during the civil war, and Bishop Juan Gerardi, the head of the Guatemalan Archdiocese who published a major Truth Commission study implicating the military in the vast majority of deaths during the war, were all murdered by clandestine groups due to their democratic standing.

Preliminary statistics recorded this year demonstrate an ominous increase in murder rates compared to the already substantial levels over the past two years. HIJOS, a humanitarian organization based in Guatemala, released a study on January 29 which reported that 61 young people have been murdered in Guatemala City during just the first 3 weeks of the new year. The report explains that "50 percent of the victims showed a bullet wound to the head," indicating that many were premeditated executions designed by organized groups.

A NEW MOTIVATION AND PORTILLO'S COMPLICITY

Why have the death squads reemerged? The escalation of violence and the reintroduction of death squads have accompanied an expansion of the drug trade under the tenure of Portillo, beginning in December of 1999. The government is hopelessly mired in corruption and intertwined with illicit activity on the part of the military. Both the military and government are complicit in protecting and expanding the drug trade in Guatemala, from which they handsomely benefit.

The illegal armed groups now being found in Guatemala are in fact remnants of the anti-Communist military and civil institutions that existed during the country's bitter civil strife of the 1980s. According to a 2002 Canadian Disarmament Information Service (CANDIS) report, retired military officers often transformed their entire units into criminal enterprises. These former soldiers possess intimate knowledge of the nation's facilities that in the past were used in covert operations, such as secluded landing strips, and safe houses for the monitoring of local populations. This knowledge, along with an easy access to weapons, has facilitated the expansion of the drug trade and incidents of political intimidation, making attempts to restrain drug trafficking more difficult.

These tainted groups are capitalizing on the pivotal geographic location of Guatemala to advance the drug trade. Occupying the southern border of Mexico, it plays a strategic role in trafficking and storing the cocaine being moved from South America to the United States.

Many of these officials have a history of human rights abuses. The United Nations

Mission to Guatemala (MINIGUA) observed that "the army and former military officials are all too often appointed to carry out and supervise strictly civilian work." The current president is a protégé of Efraín Ríos Montt, the former military dictator of the nation from 1982 to 1983. The ex-general, who now leads the nation's congress, conducted brutal genocide campaigns during the civil war and many believe he still exerts enormous influence on Portillo. Ríos Montt's brother, Bishop Mario Ríos Montt, became the Catholic Church's new head of its human rights office after the murder of Bishop Gerardi. His appointment created a situation of a radical conflict of interests; Mario Ríos Montt's job is to investigate the same rights violations for which his own brother was allegedly responsible while he ruled.

Portillo has done little to discourage the expansion of the illicit drug trade. Since he took office, drug seizures have decreased dramatically. According to a 2001 United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) study, Guatemala's reported seizure of cocaine steadily increased from 956 kg in 1995 to 9,959 kg in 1999. In 2000, however, the year after Portillo took office, this trend reversed and the number plunged to 1,517 kg of cocaine.

A corrupt anti-narcotics police force is partially culpable. The scope of the problem, however, extends beyond this inadequate anti-narcotics unit, penetrating deep within Portillo's complicit, corrupt administration. Gabriel Aguilera, Guatemala's vice minister of foreign relations, as cited by the Washington Times on January 31, stated that his own government "hasn't yet achieved a control of the criminal organizations that are behind these illegal activities." Many speculate, including some senior U.S. officials, that Portillo's acknowledged failure to curb the drug trade is no accident and is due to his links to criminal organizations. Otto Reich, the former Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere who now has shifted to the National Security Council (NSC), testified before a House subcommittee in October 2002 that since Portillo has taken office, "narcotics trafficking and alien smuggling are on the rise. Some of the leaders of these activities have very close ties to the highest levels of government and regularly influence decisions, especially with respect to personnel nominations in the military and the ministry of government."

DECERTIFYING GUATEMALA

On January 31, President Bush decertified Guatemala, declaring it, along with Haiti (which hardly deserved such treatment) and Burma, to be "demonstrably failing" in the past 12 months in their anti-drug efforts. Established in 1986 by Congress, the drug certification program annually evaluates whether a foreign nation is cooperating with Washington in its international war on drugs. If decertified, the U.S., according to the program, should have suspended the \$3.5 million it contributes to Guatemala's antinarcotics unit and close to \$50 million in general assistance it sends annually to the nation.

The suspensions of Guatemala, Haiti, and Burma, however, were more empty and symbolic than meaningful policy formulations. Burma receives no U.S. aid and President Bush granted Guatemala and Haiti vital national interest waivers, which allows for, despite decertification, the continuation of U.S. aid to each designated country.

While a strong case can be made for Haiti's waiver on humanitarian grounds (because of the impact on that beleaguered island of benighted U.S. policies), no such case can be made for the continuation of aid to Guatemala. Unlike the latter, Haiti does not have death squads, a president who is indifferent to drug trafficking, or a military which is

the prime factor in both rights violations and the drug trade.

Furthermore, the drug traffickers and the political figures that support the drug trade give minimal credence to the decertification branding, as long as U.S. aid continues. Directly following the announcement, congressional leader Ríos Montt declared the U.S.'s negative assessment as an "eminently political" maneuver that "seeks to affect the government but will not have, from any point of view, any social, economic, or financial repercussions." Montt correctly, if insolently, affirms that there is essentially no U.S. policy change towards Guatemala. As a result, government activity, including its corrupt practices and complicit actions with organized crime, will continue unimpeded.

Guatemala's difficulties with drugs, corruption, and rights abuses are germane because they jeopardize the White House's plans for the development of a U.S. sponsored free-trade agreement with five Central American nations: El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. The U.S. would be hard put to exclude Guatemala from the potential arrangement because it is Central America's most populated nation and is critical to making any free-trade pact a success.

The Bush administration is purposefully misusing the decertification process by sacrificing its war on drugs for a potential trade agreement, continuing aid to the corrupt Portillo regime in order to maintain relations with Guatemala at all costs.

WHAT TO DO

Cleaning up Guatemala demands not only the accountability on the part of the Guatemalan government, but the moral fortitude of U.S. authorities to suspend all aid to that country, if need be. Despite potential economic gains, the U.S. cannot establish a free trade pact with Central America until Guatemala reforms and becomes a sound investment, both financially and morally. Guatemala should serve as a warning to Washington as well as to the rest of Latin America of the increasing power and influence of the drug trade and its implications on vulnerable governments throughout the region.

HONORING TENNESSEE'S NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS FOR SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the thousands of men and women who serve in the Tennessee National Guard, many of whom have dutifully answered the call to serve our country in this time of war.

In Tennessee, we have always been proud of our strong volunteer spirit, made famous when volunteers from Tennessee traveled with Davy Crockett in 1836 to defend the Alamo in Texas' fight for independence. Today, the volunteer spirit is still alive, and one fine example is in the more than 14,000 men and women who serve in the Tennessee Army National Guard and Tennessee Air National Guard, under the leadership of Tennessee Adjutant General Gus Hargett.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Tennessee National Guard members during my 26 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard. I know from working with these men and women that their dedication to Tennessee and to our nation is unequalled. That dedication has been proven time and time again.

Immediately following the attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, members of the Tennessee National Guard responded. Guard members secured airports and Tennessee landmarks, refueled fighters for battle and prepared for deployment overseas. The 164th Airlift Wing from Memphis deployed four C-141 aircraft within 20 hours of the attacks. The 118th Airlift Wing helped save the life of a small child on September 11th of that year by transporting a liver transplant from Nashville to Texas.

Now, thousands of Tennessee's National Guard troops are again answering the call to duty, leaving their families, homes and jobs to serve our country in its time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in honoring the thousands of Tennessee volunteers who are serving our country honorably as members of the Tennessee National Guard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUS HUME

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Claus Hume and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to Colorado. Judge Hume is officially retiring as the Chief Judge of the Colorado Court of Appeals, and today I would like to honor his long and distinguished career of service to his community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Judge Hume's legal career has spanned three decades. After a brief stint as a photographer, he graduated from the University of Colorado law school in 1965 and moved to Craig, Colorado, where he began his career and started a family. One of few lawyers in Craig, Judge Hume began working for the local prosecutor's office and was elected District Attorney in 1972, serving for two years until he was appointed to a district court judgeship. He served on the 14th Judicial District bench for thirteen years, until he received his appointment to the Colorado Court of Appeals in 1988. Judge Hume's service to Colorado is a credit to our state and I am grateful for his dedication to justice for all Coloradans.

Mr. Speaker, Claus Hume is an exemplary servant to his community and to the State of Colorado, and it is with great pride that I recognize his career before this body of Congress and this nation. Judge Hume's presence in the courtroom will be greatly missed throughout the state, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE GILES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Giles County High School boy's basketball team, who recently won the Tennessee Class AA championship. This is the first such championship for the boy's basketball team in school history.

I want to commend this team not only for winning the championship, but the fashion in which they accomplished this great feat. They

never reached for individual awards and recognition, as often is the case in today's society. They worked together as a cohesive unit to accomplish something greater than any individual award, and as a result they are all champions. During their championship run they displayed values and character that we as Americans hold so dear. They were determined, worked hard, showed heart, displayed teamwork, and were consummate sportsman.

I would also like to take this time to applaud the local community which rallied around the team. I must say that I am extremely proud to represent a group of people who still hold family values and a sense of community in such high regards.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in saluting the fine group of talented young men from Giles County, Tennessee. These young men show maturity beyond their years, and represent what is good with our country's youth.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF ASBURY PARK HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a number of people I am proud to represent from the sixth district of New Jersey. On Friday, April 11th, 2003, Asbury Park High School will induct its first class of distinguished alumni into its Hall of Fame. These individuals are being honored for their commitment to the mission of Asbury Park High, which is to promote the educational, physical, and social well being of children of Asbury Park. In their own way, each of these extraordinary people have encouraged and inspired the students of Asbury Park to strive for excellence, and become our future leaders and role models.

Mr. Speaker, on this day I ask my colleagues to rise in honor of these unique individuals for the invaluable services that they provide to their community:

Mr. Joseph Agris, Mr. C Regan Almonor, Esq., Mr. Frank Buddy, Ms. Judith Coleman, Mr. James Coleman, Mr. John Hayes, III, M.D., Mr. Lorenzo W. Harris, Jr., M.D., Dr. Benjamin Moffett, Mr. Jules Plangere, Jr., Mr. Joseph Reed, Jr., Dr. Phillip Schien, M.D., Mr. Thomas Schebell, Jr., Mr. Stanley Smith, Esq., Mr. Thomas Smith, Sr., Mr. Thomas Smith, Jr., Ms. M. Monica Sweeney, Mr. Carl Williams, and Mr. Melvin Wilmore.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today, all across this country, American workers and the middle class are under severe attack. Unemployment is rising, our manufacturing base is collapsing, health care costs for workers are soaring, the minimum wage has not been

raised for years and the decline of the stock market has devastated the retirement plans for millions of workers. And now, on top of all of that, the Bush administration and corporate America and the CEOs who receive compensation packages are attempting to destroy the pensions that have been promised to millions of American workers.

In response, I am introducing the Pension Benefits Protection Act to protect the pensions of American workers with 117 original cosponsors. This legislation has been endorsed by the AARP representing more than 35 million Americans, the AFL-CIO representing more than 13 million American workers, the Pension Rights Center and the Communication Workers of America. I have attached the statements of David Certner, AARP Director of Federal Affairs, and Richard Trumka, Secretary Treasurer at the AFL-CIO, in support of this legislation for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Those of us in Congress who care about this issue, along with the grass roots organizations, will do everything we can to see that workers in America do not see their pensions slashed by up to 50 percent as a result of cash balance conversions.

The Pension Benefits Protection Act requires the Department of Treasury to withdraw proposed cash balance conversion regulations that would give companies the green light to violate the pension age discrimination laws that are on the books. The legislation would also require companies that convert to cash balance plans to allow older workers and those with at least 10 years on the job the choice to remain in their traditional pensions. Specifically, this legislation does 2 things:

First, it requires companies that convert to cash balance plans to allow workers who are at least 40 years old or have at least 10 years of service the choice to remain in the traditional defined benefit pension plan that was promised to them when they started working for the company. In other words, they cannot be forced into an inferior plan.

When a company makes a promise to its employees regarding their pension benefits, it must not be able to pull the rug out from under its employees by cutting their pension benefits in mid-stream. Companies receive some \$100 billion in tax incentives to set up these pension plans. Given that reality, Congress must allow older workers or those with at least 10 years of service the option to remain in their traditional defined benefit pension plan.

Secondly, this legislation requires the Bush administration to immediately withdraw all of their proposed cash balance pension regulations that, if finalized, would give companies the green light to commit age discrimination against older workers by converting to cash balance schemes. Just yesterday, the Treasury Department withdrew a portion of the proposed regulations dealing with highly compensated employees. While, in my view, this is a step in the right direction, the Administration must go further and withdraw all of these proposed regulations, and require all companies that convert to cash balance plans to protect older workers. We do not tolerate discrimination against workers based on race, based on gender and based on other criteria, and we will not tolerate discrimination based on age. Last January, in a letter to the President, 217 Members from both the House and the Senate made that very clear.

Through my involvement with the IBM cash balance conversion, I have heard from thousands of workers throughout the country who have expressed their anger, their disappointment, and feelings of betrayal by cash balance conversions. These are employees who had often stuck with their companies when times were tough. These were employees who had often stayed at their jobs precisely because of the pension program that the company offered. And, these are the same employees who woke up one day to discover that all of the promises that their companies made to them were not worth the paper they were written on.

Instead of providing protections for these workers, President Bush has proposed regulations on cash balance plans that would devastate the traditional pension benefits of millions of employees in large companies throughout the United States.

The White House policy on cash balance pension plans is a direct assault on the retirement plans of millions of American workers. Hundreds of companies all across America have already reneged on the retirement promises they made to their employees by switching to cash balance pension plans. If the White House proposal is allowed to stand, it will give the green light to hundreds more—resulting in financial disaster for workers all across the country who will not be receiving the pensions they were promised.

Of the 44 million Americans with traditional defined benefit plans, some 8 million employees with \$334 billion in pension fund assets have been impacted by cash balance pension conversions. According to the General Accounting Office, older employees can have their pensions slashed by up to 50 percent by a cash balance scheme.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has received over 1,000 age discrimination complaints from workers in over 30 different companies who have been negatively impacted by these schemes.

According to the Labor Department's Inspector General, companies that have converted to a cash balance scheme are illegally slashing the pension benefits of their employees by as much as \$199 million each and every year. Even worse, the Inspector General found that the Federal Government was not enforcing the pension laws and regulations that are on the books when companies shift to cash balance.

The courts have ruled that Xerox, Georgia Pacific and the Bank of Boston illegally slashed over \$300 million in pension benefits of more than 20,000 employees by converting to a cash balance plan.

Last July, 308 Members of Congress voted in favor of an amendment that I offered to prohibit the IRS from using any funds that are in violation of the pension age discrimination laws that are on the books when companies shift to cash balance schemes.

According to the President's spokesman Arl Fleischer, criticisms that cash balance plans hurt older workers are "not valid."

Well, tell that to Larry Cutrone, a 54-year-old employee from New Jersey, who worked for AT&T for 28 years, who woke up one day to find that his pension had been slashed by over 50 percent as a result of a cash balance conversion.

Tell that to House Majority Leader TOM DELAY, Speaker of the House DENNIS

HASTERT, or Rep. ROB PORTMAN. According to the Congressional Research Service, they would have their pensions slashed by as much as 69 percent under cash balance plans.

During the next debate on pension legislation, I will be asking my colleagues in the House, if cash balance plans are good enough for workers, why aren't they good enough for Members of Congress?

The answer to that question, of course, is that cash balance pension conversions are not good for older workers. They need to be given a choice.

H.R. 1276: AMERICAN DREAM
DOWNPAYMENT ACT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we all know that home equity appreciation is one of the most important drivers of wealth creation in the United States. By helping people become homeowners, we promote long-term economic stability for our Nation. It is for this reason that I rise today to urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1276, the American Dream Downpayment Act. This important legislation sets first-time, low-income homebuyers on the path to homeownership by providing help with downpayments and closing costs.

One of the primary barriers to achieving the "American Dream" of homeownership for low- and moderate-income people is the lack of accumulated wealth and disposable income. Downpayments and closing costs are traditionally the most significant obstacles that would-be homebuyers face.

In order to accumulate enough to cover downpayment and closing costs, households must consume less and save more or receive assistance from relatives or other benefactors. With rent prices skyrocketing, it is very difficult for a family to have enough money leftover for a downpayment after paying for basic needs such as shelter, health care and food. This bill attempts to assist those who have not been able to save enough money upfront but who are earning enough to make the monthly mortgage payments.

Downpayment assistance programs are proven successful in expanding homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families. And the truth is, the private sector has been working, without government intervention, to assist individuals and families who lack the necessary funds for downpayment and other related costs become homeowners.

I would like to talk about one such program, based in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. The Housing Action Resource Trust (HART) was established in 1995 and began its Downpayment Assistance Program in July of 1998. HART is an established non-profit housing organization with a proven track record. The HART program has partnered with builders and listing agents to assist prospective homebuyers across the nation who qualify for a first mortgage loan, but fall short of the downpayment and other closing costs essential in purchasing a home.

The HART program has been recognized as one of the top downpayment programs in the country. The HART program has helped 40,000 families who rent across the country realize their dream of becoming a homeowner.

The American Dream Downpayment Act will complement the tremendous work programs such as HART are doing to help build communities. I urge my colleagues to make the dream of homeownership a reality for even more Americans by supporting this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CARL
WILLIAMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise up today to honor a friend of the Sixth District of New Jersey, Mr. Carl Williams, a resident of Asbury Park. On Friday, April 11, 2003 Mr. Williams will be inducted into the Asbury Park High School Hall of Fame as a member of its first class of distinguished alumni. He is receiving this award for his untiring commitment to uniting his community in celebration of its achievements.

Mr. Williams grew up in the beach side town of Asbury Park, and has been a resident ever since. Today Mr. Williams is the owner of a successful clothing store and has proven himself as an accomplished businessman. Mr. Williams has been witness to many changes, both positive and negative, to the city of Asbury Park. Yet, his commitment to this community has never wavered and to this day he continues to serve his hometown and fellow citizens.

Mr. Williams is being honored by his community for advancing the educational, physical and social well being of the children of Asbury Park. Through his work in the community, Mr. Williams has encouraged the youth of Asbury Park to strive for excellence and become our future leaders and role models. He is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, through his tireless efforts, Carl Williams has fostered a sense of community and strived to help those less fortunate than himself Mr. Williams, is an extraordinary individual who is dedicated to enriching the lives of those around him and on this day I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the distinguished Carl Williams.

COMMENDING THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 146 IN LAWRENCE
COUNTY, LORETTO, TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the activities of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 in Loretto, Tennessee. This fine organization really believes in helping Veterans, children, and the community in every way they can.

During the Holiday Season, and throughout the year, this active Veteran's Organization

visits VA hospitals, nursing homes, law enforcement agencies, and hospitals to distribute gifts and goodwill. The Legion has even adopted an indigent individual at the Murfreesboro Tennessee VA, where they send him a quarterly check to help defray the costs of personal items, as well as gifts, snacks, and cards throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, the tireless and unselfish activities of those involved with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 in Loretto Tennessee, is truly commendable. I hope you will join me in saluting this outstanding organization and all that they do.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST MATHEW
G. BOULE, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to United States Army Specialist Mathew G. Boule, 22, who died on April 2 in service to his country.

Mathew Boule was a resident of a community in my district, Dracut, Massachusetts, who was serving with the armed forces deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mathew Boule was the first confirmed casualty of the conflict from the state of Massachusetts.

After graduating from high school, Mathew Boule signed up for a five-year Army tour. He learned discipline and the value of camaraderie during his tour of duty, and was proud to tell his family of his plans to someday pilot military planes.

Mathew Boule's parents Leo and Sue are proud of their son, not just for the supreme sacrifice he paid on behalf of his country, but for the time he shared with them during his life. Sue Boule eagerly and happily boasts of her son's generosity. "The kind of kid who would give you the shirt off his back," she fondly recalls. His giving of his life, along with the other brave soldiers who have lost their lives so far in this conflict, has contributed immensely to the freedom and security of the United States, Iraq, and the world.

In Mathew's honor, his parents continue their efforts to collect care packages for their son's unit, a project which has both mobilized and unified his hometown.

Mathew was a proud member of the United States army, a loving son and brother. Mathew Boule served his family, his hometown, and his country, valiantly and faithfully. Specialist Boule died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time we recognize Specialist Mathew G. Boule, United States Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

A SALUTE TO JOHN ANDREW
MARTIN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay

tribute to one of Dallas' truly outstanding citizens. As the Dallas Lawyers Auxiliary gathers tomorrow to give John Andrew Martin its 21st Justinian Award for his volunteer work, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of this exceptional individual.

Mr. Martin was born and raised in segregated Birmingham, Alabama. From 1962 to 1964, Mr. Martin was an attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice where he helped enforce the Voting Rights Act and other civil rights laws.

He has a broad legal practice which includes experience in hospital and health care law; administrative law; general business litigation, including appellate work.

Mr. Martin's administrative law experience spans more than 20 years, and includes particular experience in utility regulation. He has been involved in major rate cases, certification proceedings, and show cause hearings before the Public Utility Commission.

For over 20 years, he has served as general counsel to a tertiary care pediatric hospital and has had involvement in all aspects of its operation, including financing, Medicaid-Medicare issues, physician credentialing, medical malpractice insurance issues, equipment financing, and environmental issues, to name a few.

His litigation experience is equally broad and he is certified as a civil trial lawyer. This experience includes securities litigation, general business litigation, and condemnation and eminent domain proceedings and will contests. He appellate practice has occurred before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and in Texas Appellate Courts.

Throughout the years, Mr. Martin has served various civic boards including the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas and the Children's Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, significantly I want to honor Mr. Martin, for his courageous work in the

U.S. vs. Cecil Price et al. The trial that followed was a milestone in the civil rights era. Thirty six years ago, a Justice Department team led by Attorney General John Doar and Mr. Martin prosecuted eighteen Klan conspirators, including the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff of Philadelphia, Mississippi, for violating the civil rights of the three young civil rights workers: James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman. Despite facing an all-white jury and a segregationist judge, the legal team which Mr. Martin was part of succeeded in winning the first convictions ever recorded in a civil rights case in Mississippi.

The film "Mississippi Burning" portrayed those outstanding Americans who have dedicated their lives to the defense of our civil rights. Mr. Martin and his colleagues participated in the Civil Rights Movement, understanding that there was a danger to their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to John Andrew Martin for over four decades of service to the people of Dallas, Texas and this nation. Congratulations, Mr. Martin and best wishes for future successes.

TRIBUTE TO PULITZER PRIZE WINNING EAGLE TRIBUTE NEWSPAPER—LAWRENCE, MA

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Eagle Tribune, a newspaper in Lawrence, Massachusetts. This week the Eagle Tribune was awarded journalism's high-

est honor the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news, for its coverage of four young children from Lawrence, Massachusetts who drowned in the Merrimack River earlier this year.

The tragedy was one of the worst on the Merrimack River in the last century. Three young boys, ages 7, 8, and 9 attempted to save their friend, age 11, who had fallen through the thin ice. All four young boys died.

Just as these children, so young and innocent, acted upon their first instinct, which was to help their friend, so did the Eagle Tribune reach out to help their community by reporting this story not only with accuracy and depth, but also with compassion and justice. Expressing their commitment to preventing future tragedies on the River, the Eagle Tribune donated their Pulitzer Prize cash award to a fund established to aid the families of the victims and to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lawrence.

As Eagle Tribune publisher Irving "Chip" Rogers III said, "The job of a newspaper is to get the news and publish it instantly, but in doing so we are not immune from its heartbreak." Indeed, the reporters and staff of the Eagle Tribune, led by metro editor Gretchen Putnam, with reporters Jim Patten, O'Ryan Johnson, and Jason Grosky, covered the story with a deep sense of grief and regret felt by both the reporters and the community, while maintaining a stunning truthfulness.

The Eagle Tribune produced excellence at a time when our communities depend on fair and accurate news coverage more than ever. The paper and its reporters are to be commended not only for their excellence in journalism and professionalism, but also for their compassion and generosity in the face of tragedy. They are role models for all of us in public service.